

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) An image reading apparatus, comprising:  
  
an image reader which reads an image, and outputs an image signal representing the read image, to a signal line; and  
  
a controller which includes an indicating portion indicating a first reading resolution to the image reader, so that the image reader reads the image at the first reading resolution, and which receives the image signal from the image reader via the signal line,  
  
the image reader including a confirmation-signal producing portion which produces a resolution confirmation signal representing a second reading resolution which should be identical, when the first reading resolution has normally been indicated by the controller to the image reader, with the first reading resolution indicated by the controller, and outputs the resolution confirmation signal to the controller,  
  
the controller including a judging portion which receives the resolution confirmation signal from the image reader, and judges whether the second reading resolution represented by the received resolution confirmation signal is identical with the first reading resolution indicated to the image reader, and thereby judges whether the first reading resolution has normally been indicated to the image reader.
2. (Original) The image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the controller includes a controlling portion which controls, when the judging portion judges that the first reading resolution has not normally been indicated to the image reader, the image reader to stop reading the image.
3. (Original) The image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the indicating portion of the controller indicates the first reading resolution to the image reader

via the signal line, and wherein the confirmation-signal producing portion of the image reader outputs the resolution confirmation signal to the controller via the signal line.

4. (Original) The image reading apparatus according to claim 3, wherein before the image reader outputs the image signal to the controller via the signal line, the confirmation-signal producing portion of the image reader outputs the resolution confirmation signal to the controller via the signal line.

5. (Original) The image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the image reader reads each one of a plurality of lines in the image, in a corresponding one of a plurality of image reading operations, and wherein each time the image reader performs one of the image reading operations, the indicating portion of the controller indicates the first reading resolution to the image reader.

6. (Original) The image reading apparatus according to claim 5, wherein each time the image reader performs said one of the image reading operations, the indicating portion of the controller indicates the first reading resolution to the image reader, and the confirmation-signal producing portion of the image reader outputs, to the controller, a corresponding one of a plurality of said resolution confirmation signals which represents a corresponding one of a plurality of said second reading resolutions, and wherein the judging portion of the controller judges, when the judging portion judges that said one second reading resolution represented by said one resolution confirmation signal is not identical with the first reading resolution, whether a next one of the second reading resolutions which is represented by a next one of the resolution confirmation signals is identical with the first reading resolution, and the judging portion judges, when the judging portion judges that said next second reading resolution represented by said next resolution confirmation signal is not identical with the first reading resolution, that the first reading resolution has not normally been indicated to the image reader.

7. (Original) The image reading apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the controller discards, when the judging portion thereof judges that the first reading resolution has not normally been indicated to the image reader, the image signal received thereafter from the image reader.

8. (Original) A method of confirming that a first reading resolution has normally been indicated by a controller to an image reader, the image reader reading an image, and outputting an image signal representing the read image, to the controller, via a signal line, the controller indicating the first reading resolution to the image reader, so that the image reader reads the image at the first reading resolution, and receiving the image signal from the image reader via the signal line, the method comprising the steps of:

producing, with the image reader, a resolution confirmation signal representing a second reading resolution which should be identical, when the first reading resolution has normally been indicated by the controller to the image reader, with the first reading resolution indicated by the controller, and outputting the resolution confirmation signal from the image reader to the controller, and

receiving, with the controller, the resolution confirmation signal from the image reader, and judging whether the second reading resolution represented by the received resolution confirmation signal is identical with the first reading resolution indicated by the controller to the image reader, thereby judging whether the first reading resolution has normally been indicated by the controller to the image reader.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 8, further comprising a step of controlling, with the controller, the image reader to stop reading the image, when it is judged that the first reading resolution has not normally been indicated by the controller to the image reader.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 8, further comprising a step of indicating, with the controller, the first reading resolution to the image reader via the signal line, wherein the step of outputting the resolution confirmation signal comprises outputting the resolution confirmation signal from the image reader to the controller via the signal line.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 10, wherein the step of outputting the resolution confirmation signal comprises outputting, before the image reader outputs the image signal to the controller via the signal line, the resolution confirmation signal from the image reader to the controller via the signal line.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 8, further comprising a step of reading, with the image reader, each one of a plurality of lines in the image, in a corresponding one of a plurality of image reading operations, and a step of indicating, with the controller, the first reading resolution to the image reader, each time the image reader performs one of the image reading operations.

13. (Original) The method according to claim 12, wherein the step of indicating comprises indicating, with the controller, the first reading resolution to the image reader each time the image reader performs one of the image reading operations, and the step of outputting the resolution confirmation signal comprises outputting, from the image reader to the controller, a corresponding one of a plurality of said resolution confirmation signals which represents a corresponding one of a plurality of said second reading resolutions, and wherein the method further comprises a step of judging, with the controller, and when it is judged that said one second reading resolution represented by said one resolution confirmation signal is not identical with the first reading resolution, whether a next one of the second reading resolutions which is represented by a next one of the resolution confirmation signals is identical with the first reading resolution, and judging, when it is judged that said next second reading resolution represented by said next resolution confirmation signal is not identical with

the first reading resolution, that the first reading resolution has not normally been indicated by the controller to the image reader.

14. (Original) The method according to claim 13, further comprising a step of discarding, with the controller, and when it is judged that the first reading resolution has not normally been indicated by the controller to the image reader, the image signal received thereafter from the image reader.

15-18. (Canceled)